Installation of VLPTs/LPTs In H.P.

1733. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a)the guidelines fixed for installation of VLPTs/LPTs in rural and hilly areas in the country;

(b)whether Government have any proposal to install VLPTs/LPTs in Himachal Pradesh during 2007-08;

(c)if so, the details thereof;

(d)whether Government have received any letter for installation of VLPT in Sundrayali in Shimla district for the benefit of people of Ransar Valley who are not getting the facility of Doordarshan Programmes;

(e)if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government would upgrade VLPT in Lowerkoti in Shimla district?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) In view of multi channel TV coverage having been provided in the entire country (except A&N Islands) through Doordarshan's free to air DTH service, new transmitters are now not contemplated. The broad criteria earlier followed by Doordarshan for establishment of TV transmitters included various factors such as existing coverage; extent of resultant coverage to urban and rural population; provision of services to tribal, hilly, remote and border areas; terrain conditions, availability of resources; *inter-se* priorities etc.

(b) and (c) There is no scheme to set up any additional LPT/VLPT in Himachal Pradesh. However, an HPT is under implementation at Dharamshala (in replacement of the existing LPT).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A request for shifting the existing VLPT at Chirgaon to Sundrayali had been received. After examination, it was found that in case VLPT, Chirgaon is shifted to Sundrayali, some of the area presently receiving TV coverage may not receive coverage. In view of this, shifting of VLPT, Chirgaon to Sundrayali is not envisaged.

(f) There is no scheme to upgrade the VLPT at Rohru (Lowerkoti) in Shimla district.